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Americans Applaud the Boers and the Boers' Friends!

We apprehend that some of the London newspapers are again being led astray by their New York correspondents. We are informed by cable that yesterday (Saturday) morning the following statement appeared in the London *Times:* "We are distinctly assured that the readiness of the British Government and nation to resist German interference, has been thoroughly appreciated by the American people." For this assertion there is no foundation. It must have emanated from a person whose notions of American public opinion are collected from a few thousand lickspittles, copperheads, renegades, and Uitlanders.

The sentiments which the *Times* has been misled into imputing to us are not shared by one-twentieth of one per cent. of the seventy millions of people in the United States. Americans with substantial unanimity would applaud a magnanimous resolve on the part of the Continental powers to sustain the demand of the brave Boers for absolute independence. On the other hand, we feel nothing but contempt and disgust for England's stiff-necked intention to retain over the Transvaal a control to which she never had a moral right, and every pretext for which she has forfeited by gross neglect to shield the Hollanders from outrage on the part of her own subjects. In view of the circumstances preceding and attending the raid of JAMESON'S buccaneers, the only Americans who do not sympathize with the claim of the Transvaal to perfect independence of Great Britain are those imported or apostate citizens who never heard of Lexington and Concord, or who, in their stunted hearts, regret that such battles were ever fought.

According to the latest news from Pretoria, Dr. JAMESON and his fellow brigands, who unquestionably ought to be hanged, have not yet been released, and, it is to be hoped, will not be, until the demands of the injured Hollanders have been complied with. What is it that is now required by these men, who narrowly escaped destruction through the simultaneous impact of a rebellion of Uitlanders at Johannesburg and of a piratical irruption on the part of the mounted police of the British South Africa Company? The betrayed and invaded but triumphant Boers propose to the British Government that it shall renounce the species of suzerainty over the Transvaal conceded by the treaty of 1884; that it shall abandon in favor of the Transvaal the privilege of preemption with regard to Delagoa Bay obtained by a recent agreement with Portugal; that it shall declare forfeited the charter of the British South Africa Company; that it shall banish Mr. CECIL RHODES and his accomplices from South Africa; and, finally, that for the cost of dealing with troubles which it was the business of Great Britain to prevent, there shall be paid to the Pretoria Government the modest indemnity of £500,000.

There is not one of these demands which to American onlookers does not seem reasonable and righteous. As for the three last proposals, Great Britain for her own sake should instantly accept them, in the eager though vain hope of absolving the Colonial Office of collusion and culpability. Nor is there the slightest room for doubt that, were Lord SALISBURY actuated by the magnanimity and sense of honor evinced by Mr. GLADSTONE in 1881, he would frankly acknowledge that England, having failed to discharge the duty of protecting a vassal State from wrong at the hands of British subjects, had thereby forfeited all claim to any kind of suzerainty. Nor would he, once constrained by probity to recognize the absolute independence of the Transvaal, stoop to the dog-in-the-manger policy of confiscating Delagoa Bay, which to the land-locked republic offers an outlet to the sea. But times have changed since 1881, and men of a different character now bear sway in British councils. Lord SALISBURY and Mr. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN will, if they can, keep the gallant Hollanders in the same condition of partial dependence, which has exposed them to incursion in the past, and will subject them to like perils in the future. The limit of their meanness and malignancy in dealing with the outraged Boers will be fixed by a cunning calculation of their physical ability. But when England finds that the great Continental powers are not in the least perturbed by a display of bravado in the matter of naval preparations, she will hearken to the voice of equity and justice, unless she is wholly in the grasp of those predestined ruiners of States whom fate, consigning to destruction, first makes mad.

Her Britannic Majesty.

In British diplomacy Queen VICTORIA seems to be unusually active at this time. Repeatedly we have had despatches from London about her conferences with Lord SALISBURY upon the momentous questions that have recently given concern to her Government. We have been made aware of her several commands to JO CHAMBERLAIN within the past fortnight to visit her at Osborne that they might hold communication upon matters of State. We have learned again and again that messengers from the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office had hastened to convey to her such documents of importance as may have come to hand. We have heard of that letter of rebuke which she sent to her warlike grandson, the German Kaiser, a few days ago. We have had a copy of the telegraphic message which she commanded the Colonial Secretary to send to President KRUGER of the South African Republic. We have been informed that it is her purpose to review the flying squadron, in case it shall strike out from England.

It is not often that the Queen is so fully occupied with public questions as she is in these times. She has always taken a personal interest in the affairs of the kingdom and the empire, and has made her judgment or her will known whenever she thought fit to do so. She is unquestionably a power in her Government, and more than one Ministry has had occasion to know of the undesirability of running counter to her Majesty. The theory that "the King reigns, but does not govern," has never received the signature of the Queen. She has reigned for fifty-eight years, and has often taken a hand during that time in the business of governing. It was Mr. ROEBUCK who once exclaimed: "The Crown! it is the House of Commons!" but her Majesty has never appeared to regard that body as all of the Crown. She keeps a crown that is all her own.

The Queen's influence in her Government, so far as foreign affairs are concerned, has nearly always been of a pacific kind. She is not destitute of the martial spirit, and we suppose it possessed her soul during the Crimean war, the Indian mutiny, and the campaign in Egypt; but she has generally curbed it. She did so, perhaps on account of her affection for Prince ALBERT, during the war in this country, and she appears to have done so during the existing troubles in Turkey. Had she the belligerent temper that some other Queens have had, it might have gone hard with England.

Another thing about her Majesty is that she is a woman who wields an influence upon the other sovereigns of Europe; and this is a matter of special interest in the conduct of British diplomacy. She does not fear to remind her grandson, the German warrior, of his duties; she looks upon her relation by marriage, the Russian Czar, as a youngster in need of guidance; she is on the best of terms with the Emperor of Austria, and with the King of Italy, and the King of the Belgians, and the Kings of Portugal, Denmark, and Sweden. No British statesman could speak to these monarchs as the Queen can speak to them, in a motherly, or a sisterly, or a cousinly, or a collateral, way. They would not take from any man, not even from a King, such words as her Majesty can pen to them, or utter in their presence. Thus her Majesty possesses a power unlike that of any other sovereign in Europe. She is a veteran diplomatist. When negotiations are afoot, when there is a time of danger, she can make her influence felt from the Thames to the Oxus.

There is no other sovereign like her in all the world. The Queen Regent of the Netherlands is but a respectable matron, and so is the Queen Regent of Spain. The Queens and Empresses who are the wives of potentates are of small account in affairs of State. The Empress Dowager of China was supposed to be a formidable personality until Japan came to the front. The Queen of Corea ruled her feeble country with a strong hand until last year, when she was assassinated. There lives upon earth but one woman sovereign who is a power in statesmanship. She reigns over England and takes her part in governing it.

Now, why is it that her Majesty has never been heard from in regard to the Venezuelan affair, which is certainly an affair of some concern to England? The Transvaal question, and the remarks of WILLIAM II. about it, have stirred her up; but what of the Venezuelan question and the remarks of Mr. CLEVELAND about it? Her Majesty doubtless possesses abundant information concerning it; she is aware of the flagrant misconduct of her Premier in regard to it; she must have studied the American documents bearing upon the subject; she can have no doubt of her power over the stiff-necked SALISBURY; her judgment must surely be in favor of arbitration between England and Venezuela. She has commanded CHAMBERLAIN to write in her name to President KRUGER at Pretoria, but never a word has she sent to President CRESPO at Caracas. We have not a doubt that the Queen can influence her Ministry in the case of Venezuela. Can the sovereign herself have a doubt of her power over her subjects in this case? We are of opinion that the dispute would be brought to arbitration if she were to notify SALISBURY that such is her royal will.

We do not make any appeal to her Majesty. She shall do as she pleases, so far as we are concerned. If she is willing that a diplomatic blunderer shall get her Government into a scrape from which she might save it, she may have cause for regret later on.

Universities, Mediæval and Modern.

A history of mediæval universities, such as was noticed in THE SUN the other day, naturally leads the reader to inquire how far the conditions under which these institutions were founded still exist, and whether the adaptation to the requirements of modern society is as complete as was the adaptation to the requirements of society in the middle ages. In one respect the conditions have obviously been changed. Before the invention of printing, when books were rare, and hardly accessible anywhere but in the library of the monastery, the student's only fountain of knowledge was the professor's chair. But now, though the recitation and the seminary, as modes of instruction, of course retain their usefulness, the lecture proper is almost superseded by the book. Almost, yet not entirely; for the living voice of a good lecturer still awakens an interest in the subject which is not awakened by the lifeless page. This of course applies to literature only, or to science merely of the popular kind; for exact and experimental science, such as forms the preparation for a profession, the student must of course resort to the schools of physical science, with their anatomical, chemical, and material departments and experiments. This is a function unknown to the universities of the middle ages, when physical science had only just been born in the cell of ROGER BACON. Any subject to be studied professionally must be studied under the guidance of an expert. This is evident in regard to law, and it is true even in the case of English literature if the student intends to qualify himself for teaching.

It would, perhaps, puzzle even the President of a university exactly to define the object of his institution. A hundred, or perhaps fifty, years ago a university would have been designated by its administrators as a place of culture. Such certainly would have been the ideal of a head of a college of Oxford or Cambridge. He would have said: "We do not pretend to impart knowledge of a practical or professional kind. Our aim is to cultivate the mind and develop its powers, not for the purposes of any special calling, but for the general objects of life; and our best instruments for that we find to be the classics and mathematics." An institution of this kind might be adapted to the requirements of a great leisure class such as the sons of the English gentry. But an industrial age, without formally discarding, has, to a great extent practically set aside that ideal. It has demanded that the universities shall be schools of useful knowledge, such as prepares for special professions or callings, and will enable the student to earn his bread. At the old English universities, which are still the places of education for a leisure class of gentry, the culture ideal probably continues to prevail; though even there classics and mathematics have been deposed from their exclusive supremacy, and the door of the curriculum has been opened to more utilitarian subjects, such as modern history, jurisprudence, political economy, and physical science.

But in American universities, notably in those of the latest foundation, the utilitarian or bread-and-butter ideal, has gained the upper hand. Of the culture ideal, there remains little more than may be realized by residence in a general atmosphere of study, with opportunities of intellectual intercourse and by the addition of a modicum of general knowledge to the professional or practical course. For the wealthy student the main object may still be culture, and he may make his option, usually, perhaps, a soft option, with that object in view. To the ordinary student the university is no longer a school of culture, but a magazine of knowledge of various kinds out of which he chooses the department suited to his destiny in life. Greek and Latin still have a place, and one at least of ostensible honor, in the curriculum; but they stand cheek by jowl not only with English literature, political economy, physics, chemistry, botany, zoölogy, and geology, but with agriculture, horticulture, veterinary science, architecture, dentistry, and civil engineering.

What would a former President, we will not say of an Oxford or Cambridge college, but of Harvard or Yale, have said to the intrusion of a steam engine, a dairy, or a poultry yard into his temple of the Muses? He would have recoiled probably even from the admission of modern languages. In this respect, if historic precedent is of value, the bread-and-butter of our day may claim that it is no innovation, but a reversion to the university of the middle ages; for the mediæval boy who trudged up with his wallet on his back to study theology at Paris, civil and canon law at Bologna, or medicine at Salerno, looked not only for the expansion of his intellectual powers and the refinement of his taste, but for the most substantial fruits of his labor.

It is, however, not as places only for the education of youth that universities should be regarded. They have another, perhaps a higher, function to perform. They have, through their professoriates, to advance learning and science, doing for us what BACON intended to be done by his "Nova Atlantis." This was hardly possible so long as study ended with graduation, while the time of the professor was wholly taken up with teaching, and he was allowed no time for study and research. An improvement in this respect has been made, in the higher universities at least, by the more liberal treatment of professors, and by provision for post-graduate studies such as is made at Johns Hokpins University and elsewhere, as well as by the enlargement of university libraries and of other academical facilities for research. The good effects are visible in American literature and science. A spirit of research and of critical accuracy has manifestly been gaining ground in all departments of knowledge. In some departments there seems even a danger of our becoming too professorial. This may be said especially in regard to history, which is in some danger of being emptied of its personal and ethical element by an exaggerated devotion to severe science. Our grateful homage is due to the austere masters of research such as GNEIST and STUBBS, and we can well understand the preference given to them by professorial erudition over MACAULAY or CARLYLE. But the mass even of educated people would find difficulty in reading GNEIST or STUBBS, and still more difficulty in remembering what they had read. History, presented only in so extremely professorial a guise, would cease to delight and educate mankind.

Oxford and Cambridge have been endowed with the incongruous privilege of sending representatives to Parliament. This has involved them in party politics, while their close connection with the Established Church has hitherto made them handmaids of Anglican ascendancy and battlefields of ecclesiastical strife. American universities happily are free from such influences, and are at liberty to serve the republic impartially at once by promoting a higher treatment of political subjects, and by instilling a regard for principle such as may elevate the tone of public life. This there seems to be little doubt that they are doing. They moreover exercise a useful influence simply as great and stable institutions in the midst of a vast and migratory population, which, without such centres and bonds of association, would be in danger of becoming, as BURKE said a nation without its continuous traditions would become, like the flies of a summer.

It is said, probably with truth, that there are too many universities in the United States. American founders, unlike the founders of Oxford and Cambridge colleges, have unluckily chosen each to create a separate institution of his own, instead of combining to build up a great university among them. Universities have thus been multiplied beyond measure. The number of universities and colleges in the United States is now probably nearer to five hundred than four hundred. There are upward of twenty in the State of New York alone. The number of students is at the present day probably not far short of one hundred and forty thousand, a large increase having been made within the last few years by the influx of women. A weak university, unless sustained by a religious sect, can scarcely subsist by any other means than by "soft" graduation. Thus the standard must be lowered, and there will be danger of tempting into intellectual callings youths whom it would be better both for the good of society and for their own happiness to leave in the office, at the store, or perhaps even at the plough. Free high schools, where they exist, cannot fail to contribute to this result. They form the tempting ladder up which a rural boy too often climbs to an elevation at which he has nothing to sustain him. Law and medicine are thus becoming overcrowded. It is in vain that the strong universities raise their standard of admission and graduation, while their weaker sisters can subsist only by keeping the standard low.

This is a danger not academical only, but economical and social, which ought not to be overlooked. Undue facility of graduation, combined with the growing preference for intellectual over manual callings, and the increased love of city life, may lead to the production of a multitude of graduates for whom there will be no suitable employment, and who may not only be miserable, but, in the end, dangerous to society. It is from an element of this kind, if we are rightly informed, that nihilism draws not a few of its recruits.

The munificent founder of an American university once said that he hoped the day would come when there would be five thousand students in his halls. It was answered that if that day should come the institution would be in danger of proving a bane instead of a blessing to the State, since there would not be a market for the five thousand graduates, and the unemployed would have either to starve or to resort to some undesirable means of earning their bread. That so great a diffusion of high education, especially in the scientific line, sets the inventive intellect of the nation widely at work may be true; but this hardly compensates for the peril. A consolidation of the universities in each State, if it were possible, would be both academically and socially a great gain. Of a national university, though the idea may be taking, there seems to be no practical need, while there would be reason to fear that such an institution would not be free from the influence of political party. Perfect political neutrality is essential to the exercise by the universities of a wholesome influence on national life.

Shall a boy be sent to the university? The answer to this question has in the majority of cases been greatly simplified by the change in the character of the universities from places of general culture to places of practical instruction and preparation for professions. A boy destined for a scientific or intellectual calling must of course pass through its entrance gate. In the days of general culture many boys went, to the English universities at least, who had better have stayed away. They had no general taste or aptitude for learning. They could not, like boys in a school, be compelled to work. They spent their three years in a way too truly depicted in such books as "Verdant Green," and they contracted habits of idleness, if not worse habits still. In an office or in regular business of any kind a boy is under command and discipline, his hours are regulated, his character is formed to industry, and his work, if it is not of a wholly mechanical kind, at all events sharpens his intellect, and he imbibes a certain amount of general knowledge even from the social medium in which he lives. Education is not now confined to schools or universities, nor is it limited to the early period of life. COBDEN was ridiculed for saying that there was more to be learned from the *Times* than from THUCYDIDES. Yet it is certain that a daily reader of the *Times* imbibes a large amount and a great variety of knowledge. Whether your boy should be sent to a university without a professional or definite object, for the sake of general culture, unless he has shown a decided taste for intellectual pursuits, is, therefore, extremely doubtful, though it may not be easy to say what is to be done, in the interval between school and marriage, with a wealthy youth destined to a life of idleness and pleasure. How to educate young millionaires so that they shall not be nuisances to the community is a problem of which no solution has yet been found.

GOLDWIN SMITH.

The Distribution of Our Foreign-born Population.

A correspondent of THE SUN has called attention to the extraordinary statement made by the Rev. WILBUR F. CRAFTS in an article on "Political Betterments Through Improved Legislation," in the *American Magazine of Civics* for January. The Rev. Mr. CRAFTS urges the imposition, wherever possible, of an educational qualification for the suffrage, in order "to keep ignorant immigrants from dominating the North." In most States, he thinks, this could be done by "the American vote, reënforced by the large majority of foreigners who are American in spirit." But in thirteen States he apparently regards the case as hopeless:

"In thirteen States—an unlucky thirteen—the foreign-born are a majority."

It is a pity that the Rev. Mr. CRAFTS does not undertake to specify the "unlucky" thirteen States of the Union wherein a majority of the population is of foreign birth. Then, perhaps, we could trace the origin of the amazing misstatement which he so confidently puts forth.

The fact is, that not only in no State of the Union is the foreign-born population in excess of the native, but in only two States is it even one-third of the total. Those States are North Dakota and Minnesota. The figures of the Eleventh Census were accessible to the Rev. Mr. CRAFTS:

State.	Foreign-born Population.	Percentage.
Maine	78,961	11.94
New Hampshire	72,340	19.21
Vermont	44,088	13.26
Massachusetts	657,137	29.35
Rhode Island	106,305	30.77
Connecticut	183,601	24.60
New York	1,571,050	26.19
New Jersey	328,975	22.77
Pennsylvania	845,720	16.08
Delaware	13,161	7.81
Maryland	94,296	9.05
District of Columbia	18,770	8.15
Virginia	18,374	1.11
West Virginia	18,883	2.48
North Carolina	3,702	0.23
South Carolina	6,270	0.54
Georgia	12,137	0.66
Florida	22,932	5.86
Ohio	459,293	12.51
Indiana	146,205	6.67
Illinois	842,347	22.01
Michigan	543,880	25.97
Wisconsin	519,199	30.78
Minnesota	467,356	35.90
Iowa	324,069	16.95
Missouri	234,869	8.77
North Dakota	81,461	44.58
South Dakota	91,055	27.69
Nebraska	202,542	19.13
Kansas	147,838	10.36
Kentucky	59,356	3.19
Tennessee	20,029	1.13
Alabama	14,777	0.98
Mississippi	7,952	0.62
Louisiana	49,747	4.45
Texas	152,956	6.84
Oklahoma	2,740	4.43
Arkansas	14,264	1.26
Montana	43,096	32.61
Wyoming	14,913	24.57
Colorado	83,990	20.38
New Mexico	11,259	7.33
Arizona	18,795	31.52
Utah	53,064	25.59
Nevada	14,706	32.14
Idaho	17,456	20.69
Washington	90,005	25.76
Oregon	57,317	18.27
California	366,309	30.32
Total	9,249,547	14.77

If what this clergyman meant was that in thirteen States the foreign-born naturalized males of voting age outnumber the native voters, he was as far from the truth as if he intended to include the whole population. In five States, namely, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, Nevada, and California, the foreign-born males of voting age, naturalized and not naturalized included, exceed the native males of voting age; but in no State of the Union do the naturalized males of voting age outnumber the native voters. This may be seen from the subjoined table, the figures being those of the Eleventh Census:

	Native Males of Voting Age.	Naturalized Foreign Born.
Maine	170,771	11,128
New Hampshire	92,088	10,131
Vermont	82,011	9,243
Massachusetts	407,915	112,504
Rhode Island	59,332	15,605
Connecticut	145,078	38,730
New York	1,084,157	416,372
New Jersey	268,483	87,466
Pennsylvania	1,064,429	211,396
Delaware	41,407	3,494
Maryland	228,149	20,322
District of Columbia	55,203	5,617
Virginia	367,469	6,739
West Virginia	171,011	6,326
North Carolina	340,572	1,338
South Carolina	282,200	2,251
Georgia	391,168	4,129
Florida	85,561	5,099
Ohio	797,623	153,789
Indiana	521,703	55,676
Illinois	682,346	242,487
Michigan	360,128	145,901
Wisconsin	217,338	158,149
Minnesota	154,727	140,962
Iowa	364,662	107,236
Missouri	584,981	80,886
North Dakota	19,045	17,747
South Dakota	53,851	28,644
Nebraska	205,625	61,815
Kansas	310,166	50,682
Kentucky	420,076	20,938
Tennessee	391,429	6,500
Alabama	316,697	4,865
Mississippi	286,049	8,079
Louisiana	225,219	13,975
Texas	460,694	40,956
Oklahoma	17,509	1,217
Arkansas	249,008	5,247
Montana	35,442	14,950
Wyoming	17,852	4,378
Colorado	114,580	29,449
New Mexico	38,194	3,574
Arizona	13,665	8,893
Utah	29,946	14,621
Nevada	10,181	5,824
Idaho	19,783	6,465
Washington	88,068	29,649
Oregon	74,329	17,705
California	280,154	106,564
Total	12,591,852	2,545,753

These two tables are well worth study because they exhibit the geographical distribution of our foreign-born population and our foreign-born citizens. We shall not waste words on the Rev. WILBUR F. CRAFTS'S bigoted and impudent assertion that American institutions are menaced by an element which includes some of our best Americans; citizens who proved their Americanism when the unity of the republic was in danger thirty and more years ago, and who will be among the first at the front in defence of the flag the next time it is waved for war. We are concerned just now only with this clergyman's statistics. Why is it that in matters of fact and of figures we are so frequently compelled to expose and rebuke the inexcusably reckless misstatements of men of Mr. CRAFTS'S profession? Why are ministers of the Gospel so often guilty of wild exaggerations and statistical blunders which would be unpardonable in a college freshman, writing his first theme?

The Judicial Gown Question.

In an editorial paragraph on the opening of the appellate division of the Supreme Court in this city and in Brooklyn the *New York Tribune* makes this comment:

"It is noticeable that while the Appellate Judges in this city wore black gowns, those in Brooklyn appeared in their customary dress. Uniformity in this matter would appear to be desirable."

In October and December, the Supreme Court Justices assigned to duty in the appellate division met in convention at Albany, as required by law, to revise the general rules of procedure which regulate the transaction of business in the courts of record of this State. At the October meeting one of the topics of discussion was the proposed adoption of gowns as an appropriate costume for the new tribunal. There were sixteen Judges present, and upon a vote being taken there were found to be eight votes in favor of the gown and eight against it.

The subject was again brought before the convention of Judges at their final meeting in December. The Appellate Justices from this city presented for the consideration of the convention a memorial in favor of gowns which they had received from the leading members of the New York bar. A similar memorial was presented from members of the bar in the Buffalo district. It appeared, however, that in the Albany and Brooklyn departments there had been no such expression of sentiment on the part of the legal profession; and in the absence of any feeling in favor of gowns on the part of the lawyers, the Judges from those portions of the State were unwilling to adopt them. The view that finally prevailed was that the matter should be left to each judicial department for decision, and the resolution in favor of gowns was laid on the table by a vote of twelve to six.

The costume of those who administer justice in an important appellate tribunal should be simple, appropriate, and to some extent uniform in appearance. It may be that the gown is more conducive to dignity than any other dress that can be adopted, though we are in doubt on that point. At all events, it would be in bad taste for the Judges to assume that garb in any district where it was not favored by the bar, especially when we consider the action of the recent convention at Albany in reference to the subject.

The Plan to Attack Turkey.

Although less is now heard of the recent rumor that a demonstration was to be made by our navy in the Mediterranean, including the seizure, if necessary, of some Turkish seacoast city, there is reason for believing that such a plan of campaign has been drawn up and is still under consideration.

The temptation to attack Turkey should she refuse to consider our indemnity demands for the destruction of American property, can be understood. She is expected to be an easy prey. The North Atlantic squadron, under Admiral BUNCE, would be reënforced possibly by the Newark from the South Atlantic station, and even by the best of the vessels of the Asiatic station, which would pass through the Suez Canal.

It is thought that Turkey would be able to do little against this fleet, as her navy is not in good condition; and since a counter attack against our coast would be absolutely impossible, an element of anxiety for us that would arise in a contest with England or France is wanting. It is further argued that no foreign power would interfere with a demonstration confined to the collection of an indemnity like England's at Corinto.

Thus the opportunity to make an effective parade of our available navy at this juncture was, and perhaps still is, tempting. It might, we may concede, earn us some prestige, and would be an answer to the charge that we are neglecting American interests in Armenia on account of the Venezuela dispute. At all events, the main point is that such a plan of hostile operations against Turkey has been formed.

But it would be a great blunder to carry out this plan at the present time. There is no part of it that could not be better performed a year from this time. We shall then have a vastly stronger available fleet, including the powerful armorclads Massachusetts and Oregon. There would be far more reason then for the demonstration, because Turkey's delay would have become unreasonable, and it can scarcely be called so now. But the decisive reason why such a demonstration would be a censurable risk is the state of our dispute with England, which forbids sending all our best ships to the eastern end of the Mediterranean when they might suddenly be needed on our coast. There they could be trapped at the end of a blind alley, with England's overwhelming fleet sealing up the Straits of Gibraltar.

Nor can we see any merit in the proposed modification of the plan by sending a part of our vessels thither. Should Turkey conclude to cope with that part, we might be drawn into a war which, with patience, will probably become needless, and, above all, would distract our energies from affairs immeasurably more important.

The WILSON Tariff law cannot be defended by accusations against the MCKINLEY law. One fault of the WILSON law is that it does not raise the desired revenue. If the MCKINLEY law had wiped out customs receipts to the last dollar, the WILSON law would be unfit to stay on the statute books, all the same.

We agree perfectly with the London *Times* that the idea of a permanent and general arbitration Commission between the United States and Great Britain is not now worth discussing.

We congratulate our esteemed contemporary, *Nordlyset*, and more especially its accomplished editor, Mr. JOHN VOLK, on his just published translation into Swedish of "England and America." It includes the sonnet by WILLIAM WATSON addressed to the United States, and the reply by W. H. OSTRANDER addressed to England, just as the two appeared together in THE SUN a few days since. Mr. VOLK is, indeed, an accomplished journalist as well as a poet, and these two sonnets have a most interesting ring in the noble and highly cultivated language of Scandinavia.

Brooklyn is to have a new Park Commissioner, Mr. TIMOTHY L. WOODRUFF, in place of Mr. SQUIER. Perhaps Mr. WOODRUFF starts with a thorough understanding of the duties and the restraints imposed upon a Park Commissioner. If he does, so much the better; and if he doesn't, the learning indispensable for him can be summed up in a few lines.

Instead of being the monarch of all he surveys, a Park Commissioner is the keeper of valuable property designed for public use by professional students of park making, and to be held forever subject to their influence. Mr. WOODRUFF cannot properly plant a tree in Prospect Park, or change a line of its plan, or erect a monument without the sanction and coöperation of some accredited artistic expert. He may itch to use his power to exploit his own notions, or to oblige his friends with a license to exploit theirs, but if he does he will bring discredit upon himself and probably injury to the parks, such, for example, as the DE PEYSTER statue in Bowling Green in New York. The administration of Mr. WOODRUFF will not be subject to review like that of New York's Park Commissioners, who discuss and vote so that the public knows what they are doing, and he will be bound all the more, therefore, to show his authority for every step.

JULIUS CÆSAR could write as well as fight. The first thing that Mr. ALFRED AUSTIN has done since he was appointed Poet Laureate is to prove satisfactorily that at best he is but a half-CÆSAR. He cannot write, at least in a way to fit the dignity of his office. Perhaps he can fight. Good Queen VICTORIA will do well to get another Poet Laureate and send Mr. AUSTIN to some war training school.

PULITZER AND TREASON.

His Telegram to John E. Redmond, M. P., and the Answer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I send herewith the latest copy of the *Dublin Daily Independent*. I desire to call your attention to the copy of cablegrams sent to John E. Redmond, M. P., by the New York *World*. To my mind it is a pitiable sight to see the proprietor of an American newspaper *begging* a message of peace from a foreign country, in order to check his own countrymen from upholding a great principle. It is shameful and should be brought to the notice of all American citizens.

Mr. Redmond's answer shows the true man he is, the worthy successor of the late Charles Stewart Parnell, and the leader of the party in Ireland that represents true Irish nationality.

Feeling deeply incensed when I read the telegrams in the *Dublin Independent*, I send them to you, knowing the true American stand your paper takes in all matters pertaining to the good of this country. The American public should understand how Mr. Pulitzer is holding up to shame the principles and glory of our country. It may prove interesting reading to you and your many readers. I hope so. I am very truly,

H. G. BANNON,
Secretary Irish Independent Party.

NEW YORK, Jan. 9.

PULITZER'S TELEGRAM.

To John E. Redmond, M. P., Dublin:

War craze here can in no way be more surely checked than by expressions of good will from recognized leaders of British thought and politics. Can you not send to *New York World* a message of peace to the American people? Reply prepaid without limit.

The World, JOS. PULITZER.

MR. REDMOND'S REPLY.

To the World, New York:

You ask for an expression of opinion on the war crisis from me as a representative of British thought. In this, as in all other matters, I can speak only as a representative of *Irish* opinion. If war results from the reassertion of the Monroe doctrine, Irish national sentiment will be solid on the side of America. With home rule rejected, Ireland can have no feeling of friendliness toward Great Britain.

JOHN E. REDMOND, M. P.

Wagner.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have listened to the operas of Richard Wagner with attention unexceeded by that of any other critic, and with admiration and delight, but I believe that the Wagner craze is played out. Crowds have attended Wagner performances in the past from a legitimate interest in the art and novelty, until at last, curiosity having been satisfied, and the nerves familiarized with the peculiar stimulant applied to them, the music is judged dispassionately. As music Wagner's operas will fail to hold the public as they used to do. They are too long. Their ideas are too few, and the latter are squeezed and wrung to a degree that produces the sense of weariness. Neither variety of rhetoric, modulations of voice, nor tricks of elocution, can save an orator lacking in ideas. It is an error to think, as Wagner so delights in thinking, that the ordinary conversation of the drama can be carried on in music. It becomes tedious and a bore, a flow of the non-melodic which is perforce monotonous, and aggressively and defiantly monotonous. Wagner has the divine spark, but he loves too much to "hear himself talk." He presumes upon the musical intelligence, and I think his operas are destined to lose in favor.

BOX HOLDER.

About Canada.

From the Gouverneur Free Press.

Our neighbors on the other side of the St. Lawrence River are making preparations to be prepared in case there should be trouble between England and the United States over the Venezuelan boundary line. The Canadian Minister of Militia has gone to England to purchase war material on a large scale, and it is said that a hundred thousand Dominion militia will be at once armed with the latest rapid fire guns. The Canadian ports are being strengthened, and guns of heavy calibre are to protect the harbors. It has been intimated that Canadians are so bound to the United States by ties of kinship that they would not fight against them; but this is a mistaken idea, and the preparations for hostilities going on among our northern neighbors cannot be construed otherwise than as a demonstration of their sincere loyalty to the mother country against all family, business, or social ties. With her preparations all made Canada could inflict on us a great injury in the event of trouble; but it would only be at the outset, and the inevitable result would be the complete and utter subjugation of the entire Dominion. New York State alone could put in the field 800,000 men, enough to sweep over the whole country. We hope there will be no trouble. We would rather Canada join the sisterhood of States quietly and of her own volition. We are opposed to aggression or coercion.

American Horses for England.

From the Turf, Field and Farm.

Probably the largest contract of its kind ever made with one firm in America, or in any other country, has just been closed with the well-known commission house of Crandall & Co. of East Buffalo, N. Y., who have engaged to supply four of the largest 'bus and cab companies in London with 6,000 horses, to be shipped during the year 1896.

A Leap Year Opportunity.

She—Do you think it would be unmaidenly for a girl to propose to a man?

He—Certainly not, if she is rich enough for two.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOCIETY.

The principal event of the week has been the Assembly on Thursday evening. As it was the largest subscription ball ever given at the Waldorf, it naturally had much criticism to expect. Many objections were made by the extremely conservative people to the publicity which of necessity would exist, but the managers of the ball had not acted rashly, and even the most faultfinding were forced to admit the beauty of the decorations and the excellence of the arrangements. The chief advantage was that there was plenty of room for dancing, and the ladies' dresses looked well, although there was not the same privacy nor elegance that marked the *bal poudré* of last year, given at the same place by Messrs. Hitchcock and Bulkley. The suite of rooms in which that ball was given was less public, and the decorations more elaborate.

Mrs. Astor, Mrs. William A. Duer, and Mrs. W. Watts Sherman, who received the guests, made a picture not soon to be forgotten, as they acknowledged the bow or courtesy of the guests as they entered the Empire dining room, which was the ballroom for the evening. The cotillon began at midnight, and was extremely effective. Mr. Elisha Dyer led with Mrs. John Jacob Astor, and in the favor figure the room looked like fairyland. Mrs. Astor, in her gown of pale green, with fewer diamonds than she generally wears, and Mrs. Katherine Duer, in a pale pink gown, most simply made, were noticeable among the very elaborately gowned women. The supper was quite like a regular dinner, most elaborately served, and in consequence was not over until nearly 3 o'clock, after which the cotillon was renewed, but with less vim and spirit than before.

Very young girls have been receiving more attention in every way this winter than their elder sisters. Sweet sixteen is again considered a desirable age, and for the last three weeks schoolgirls and college boys have been enjoying to the utmost the pleasures of social life. The dinner dance given by Mr. Harry Havemeyer was in every respect as elaborately carried out as the Havemeyer entertainments invariably are, and the young people acquitted themselves quite as if they had been accustomed to dinner dances for years. There was at first a feeble attempt to seem blasé, but it soon wore off, and there was a keener enjoyment visible than even the débutantes would have displayed.

The wedding of Miss Sophia Taller and Mr. Samuel Breck Parkman Trowbridge, which is to take place next Thursday afternoon at Grace Church, will be a representative gathering of "old families." Mr. Trowbridge is from New Haven, but has made his home in this city for some years. The bride is an extremely pretty girl, tall, with dark eyes and hair and a brilliant complexion. Miss Amy Bend, who is to be the maid of honor, will be in sharp contrast with her exquisite fair coloring. The invitations to the reception are limited in number, but Grace Church will be crowded to accommodate all who are bidden.

A departure from the ordinary conventional wedding dress was made by Miss Jennie Minton at her marriage to Mr. Edward Beadel on Wednesday afternoon. A yellow and white striped silk with a picture hat of yellow, with white ostrich plumes, is not the costume generally worn by brides, but it was so becoming that it will certainly be copied. The wedding was a very quiet one, owing to the recent death of the bride's grandmother, who was for so many years so prominent in society.

With the ushering in of the new year there has been a cyclone of cards for receptions, "teas," and "days." So many people have elected to stay at home that it seems as if visitors would be rather in the minority. Until now there have not been nearly so many of these functions as usual, and it had been hoped by many that they were going out of fashion, but there seems to be no other way of entertaining a long list of acquaintances at one time with so little trouble and so little expense.

It is said Miss De Forest and Miss Callender are to be at home on Thursdays in February. These most charming hostesses, whose musicals became so popular that not only all who were invited appeared, but many who were not, have had a chance to rest from their labors for some time, particularly as the report was spread that they were to spend the winter in Europe. One woman, it is said, wrote and asked if she might bring to the first musical some friends who were dining with her. Miss De Forest and Miss Callender assented, and at the following musicals the same woman gave dinners and brought her guests, dispensing with asking permission.

The dance given by Mrs. Heber R. Bishop on Wednesday was one of the most charming entertainments of the season. Everything was so exquisitely dainty; the girls looked as fresh as their gowns, evidently new for the occasion, and all the surroundings of a beautiful residence caused many to assert that after all no entertainment is ever so satisfactory as when given in a private house, though there are not many houses so well adapted for a dance.

The Colonial Dames of the State of New York, the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the American Daughters of the Revolution are extraordinarily active at present. The subject of ancestry and ancestors apparently possesses a fascination quite unknown to the uninitiated. The taking out of the necessary papers is a work of research which is most engrossing and perplexing and requires intense application, which so wears upon the nerves that a new disease has made its appearance, "ancestral prostration," which possesses all the worst symptoms of nervous prostration and takes much longer to cure.

Mrs. Alva Vanderbilt and Mr. Oliver Belmont were among the guests at the dinner given by Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Duer before the Assembly, and also appeared at the ball for a short time, Mrs. Vanderbilt displaying a whole solar system of Vanderbilt jewels. There have not been any changes made yet at the house at Seventy-second street and Madison avenue, which is really becoming quite a landmark, and is always shown to the visitors from other cities as the scene of the great wedding of the Duke of Marlborough.

Wednesday evening at the Metropolitan Opera House was one to be remembered. To do honor to the great cast of "The Huguenots" everybody and anybody turned out en masse and in their most gorgeous raiment. The boxes were filled with beautiful women fairly covered with jewels, and the orchestra and parquette were crowded, while at the back of the house to the very ceiling a dense crowd of people sat and stood. Wednesdays have been all winter very fashionable in the orchestra chairs, and a number of young married women who love music, but whose husbands love it not, have subscribed for seats instead of boxes, and have been most regular in their attendance, and express themselves as delighted with the new plan.

To build or charter a yacht, and with a party of chosen friends to sail in Southern waters, is becoming more and more popular every winter. Col. Edwin Stevens of Castle Point is to start on a cruise next week on his own private boat. Among his guests are to be his mother and Miss Caroline Duer. The cruise is to extend over several weeks, but the yacht will touch at many ports to allow any disaffected travellers to return home if so it pleases them. Apropos of travelling, letters from abroad say that such numbers of travellers are going to Egypt that all rates of travel have increased prodigiously.

The indoor ice skating is gaining in popular favor every day, and not to know how to skate is to argue oneself unknown. The same people who limped last year in consequence of bicycle bruises are again in a bruised condition from their tumbles on the ice. In England skating is still the most fashionable of all exercises, and the carnival at the Niagara Rink gives much to talk about. The English women skate well, but when the St. Nicholas Rink is once fairly started, the American women will have a chance to exhibit their grace and skill. A fancy ball on skates is said to be in contemplation by the managers of the club. Mrs. John Jacob Astor as yet is considered the star skater and is always most smartly gowned.

The marriage season in London this year promises to be a pretty brisk one. Nearly a hundred and fifty society weddings are announced to take place within the next few months, and the "booking" at most of the fashionable churches is almost unprecedented.